

Verein and the Schefield residents on the organization's 100th anniversary and in wishing them a bright future.●

TRIBUTE TO IMRE HIR

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate an honorable American and a great Georgian, Mr. Imre Hir, on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years as general manager of Atlanta Country Club.

Imre is a native of Hungary where, in 1956, he was part of a youth movement in that country that helped drive the Soviets out. When the Soviets later returned to Hungary, Imre was forced to leave his country and sought refuge in Austria. While in Austria, Imre was debriefed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which later arranged to bring him to the United States. Shortly after arriving in the United States, Imre served in the U.S. Army.

After completing his service in the military, Imre worked his way up from a dishwasher at the Red Coach Grill in Boston, MA, to becoming the general manager of Druid Hills Country Club in Atlanta in 1969. He then went on to serve as the general manager of the Atlanta Country Club, where he has held that position until this month, retiring after 40 great years.

Imre is an example of an individual who has lived the American dream, and his story is one of many among immigrants who have come to the United States—the land of opportunity—and built successful lives through hard work and perseverance.

I congratulate Imre Hir for a successful career and the contributions he has made to the United States. I wish him well in his retirement.●

SEEDS OF PEACE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to join with individuals across the world in recognizing the 20th anniversary of the founding of Seeds of Peace, an organization dedicated to the advancement of peace through understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, and coexistence among people, and established on the principle that long-term peace within or between nations can only be achieved with the emergence of a new generation of leaders who choose dialogue over violence.

Seeds of Peace's first camp session in 1993 was a labor of love for the late founder and esteemed journalist, John Wallach. That summer, under the leadership of Wallach, Bobbie Gottschalk, and Timothy Wilson, Seeds of Peace hosted 46 Arab and Israeli teenagers at its first summer camp in my home State of Maine. Since that day, the organization has blossomed into a full-fledged leadership program, which spans 27 countries with full staff in Amman, Gaza, Jerusalem, Kabul, Lahore, Mumbai, New York, Otisfield, Ramallah, and Tel Aviv.

Today, for 3 weeks at a time, during the months of June, July, and August, on the beautiful shores of Pleasant Lake in Otisfield, ME, Seeds of Peace brings together young people and educators from areas immersed in civil conflict, war, and other political and social unrest, to learn about coexistence and conflict resolution at their international summer camp. Camp participants engage with one another in both guided coexistence sessions and typical summer camp activities, which expose the human face that lie behind ethnic, religious, and political differences.

Now, under the acclaimed leadership of Leslie Lewin, Seeds of Peace has prepared over 5,000 alumni, known as "Seeds," primarily from the Middle East, South Asia, the Balkans, and Cyprus, for roles of leadership by offering them not only the unmatched summer camp experience of sleeping next to, eating alongside, and swimming with those who are their alleged enemies, but also a robust and worthwhile slate of intensive, year-round programs encircling the globe, which are focused on further refining the skills learned and relationships built at camp.

Seeds of Peace is a testament to the importance of conflict resolution and reconciliation programs as a tool for creating peace, and the program is indisputably making a difference in the lives of its Seeds each and every day. It is no surprise that Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the organization's contributions to the advancement of peace—which all began with a 3 week stint at a summer camp in Maine 20 years ago. Seeds of Peace provides a promise for a better future, and I enthusiastically welcome its continued efforts for years to come.●

RECOGNIZING FALMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Falmouth Historical Society and the Falmouth Heritage Museum, located in my hometown of Falmouth, ME. Through their steadfast commitment to preserving the past, future generations of Mainers and Americans alike will be able to not only witness, but understand the richness of their heritage.

Established in 1966, the Falmouth Historical Society was founded upon the venerable goal of preserving and sharing the town's vast and storied history. In order to accomplish that objective, members have tirelessly researched, collected, and catalogued hundreds of years of Falmouth's sacred artifacts, while the society has sponsored several outreach and awareness events for local residents as well as visitors. Indeed, through educational programs, research assistance, and newsletters, the society works diligently to reach an ever-broadening au-

dience in the effort to showcase their many other activities, including photo exhibits, genealogical inquiries, and the Maine Heritage Day event held in September.

It was back in November of 2004 when the Falmouth Historical Society began the long and arduous process of opening a permanent museum to house their historical treasures. The original building which housed the museum was first built in 1830 and donated to the Society by Dr. David Andrews and his wife Jan for whom the house was their private home. The house was then moved in 2005 to land donated by the town of Falmouth, and following years of preparation and hard work the Falmouth Heritage Museum first opened its doors in June of 2008.

Today, the Falmouth Heritage Museum provides a unique glimpse into the past and plays a vital role in the preservation of artifacts. By serving as a new home to pieces of Maine's history, the museum offers the opportunity for historic items to serve as tools of learning and a window to the past. With knowledgeable docents to answer questions and provide greater insight into the exhibits and the early history of Falmouth, the museum provides a fun and interactive way to engage our past. Furthermore, the museum recently completed work on a new storage and display barn, which will serve as a home to the ever growing number of historical treasures. The grand opening of the barn coincides with the annual opening day festivities of the museum, this year being held on June 23.

Falmouth's rich history is well preserved thanks to the efforts of the Falmouth Historical Society and the Falmouth Heritage Museum. It is through their hard work that we are able to so readily access and learn from the past. As we look to the future of Falmouth and of Maine, we treasure the path we have already traveled. I am proud to extend my gratitude, congratulations, and praise to the Falmouth Historical Society and the Falmouth Heritage Museum for their many contributions and accomplishments. I look forward to seeing their continued growth, knowing that they will one day play a vital role in preserving the history of our present day.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)